

by providing a transportation alternative for congested highways and air space.

#### *Amtrak*

There is \$1.77 billion in the bill to make capital investments, including improvements to Amtrak's fleet and upgrades to Amtrak stations to ensure they are accessible for the disabled. This increase above FY 2010 will save or create an additional 1,130 jobs.

#### *VULNERABLE POPULATIONS*

This bill includes vital support for vulnerable populations who need our help in a difficult economic environment. Included are the following:

#### *Foreclosure Mitigation and Housing Counseling Funds*

The bill includes \$113 million to support foreclosure counseling for families through NeighborWorks America and \$88 million for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's housing counseling assistance program to provide help for low and moderate income families before they purchase a home.

#### *Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Vouchers*

I am very pleased to know that we are taking care of our veterans by including \$75 million for housing vouchers for homeless veterans, coordinated with supportive services from the VA Medical Centers. This funding will support 10,000 new vouchers and supports the effort to end veteran homelessness.

#### *Housing and Services for Homeless Persons Demonstration*

This bill also includes \$85 million for a new demonstration coordinated between HUD and HHS to couple housing vouchers and mainstream health services for 10,000 homeless persons and individuals. Homeless individuals need both housing and services to build self-sufficiency, and integrating the programs of HUD and HHS in a seamless manner for these families and individuals will provide comprehensive support for long-term housing stability.

#### *Public Housing Operating Fund*

Also included is \$4.849 billion to support public housing units' maintenance and energy costs. The public housing inventory consists of more than 1.1 million units of housing to support low-income persons, whose average income level is \$13,346.

#### *Section 8 Tenant Based Rental Assistance*

This bill also includes \$19.4 billion to renew all vouchers currently in use and allow more than 2 million low income families to stay in their homes. Included in this total is \$113 million to renew housing vouchers for persons with disabilities and \$60 million to support the Family Self-Sufficiency program, which helps families increase income and move out of assisted housing.

#### *Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance*

Additionally, this bill includes \$9.4 billion to support the 1.3 million units of housing assisted. The average annual income of a resident of this form of housing is \$11,217, and

more than 57 percent are either elderly or disabled.

#### *Housing for the Elderly*

Funding in the amount of \$825 million is included in the bill to support affordable housing for the elderly by constructing approximately 3,200 new units and keeping over 50,000 elderly Americans in their homes.

#### *Housing for the Disabled*

The bill also includes \$300 million to support affordable housing for the disabled by constructing approximately 1,400 new units and keeping over 13,000 Americans with disabilities in their homes.

#### *Indian Housing*

A very important measure in this bill includes \$700 million to support and construct affordable housing for American Indians. These funds will assist over 540 tribes, provide rental assistance to over 57,000 families, and add approximately 8,000 housing units to the over 26,000 housing units constructed and 54,000 housing units rehabilitated by this program since 1998.

#### *Housing for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)*

Additionally, the bill includes \$350 million to prevent homelessness among persons with AIDS. Up to 70 percent of all people living with HIV or AIDS report a lifetime experience of homelessness or housing instability and the HIV/AIDS death rate is seven to nine times higher for homeless adults than for the general population. This funding will provide housing assistance for over 60,000 households nationwide.

#### *Homeless Assistance Grants*

The bill also provides \$2.2 billion for permanent and transitional housing for homeless families and individuals. It is important to note that this is the first year of implementation of the HEARTH Act, which will support both the prevention of, and rapid resolution of, homelessness in America.

#### *Reverse Mortgages*

Also included is \$150 million to support elderly homeowners and assist them in keeping their homes rather than forcing them to move to expensive assisted living facilities. This funding level is important because it will keep the program running in 2011 at expected volume levels.

#### *ENSURING SAFE TRANSPORTATION*

#### *Aviation Safety Programs*

The bill provides \$1.3 billion for the Federal Aviation Administration's, FAA, safety enforcement efforts including \$17 million to hire 122 additional safety inspectors to assist with NextGen development and the oversight of foreign repair stations. This additional funding will help meet the safety goals established in the FAA's Administrator's Call to Action in the aftermath of the tragic Colgan air crash.

#### *Highway Safety Programs*

Also included in the bill is \$891.2 million for the programs of the National Highway Traffic

Safety Administration to make America's roads safer by encouraging safety belt use, preventing drinking and driving, improving child safety, enhancing motorcyclist safety, and other initiatives.

#### *Railroad Safety Technology Program*

There is also \$75 million to provide grants to help deploy positive train control, PTC, systems, which perform a critical safety function on rail lines with mixed freight and passenger traffic. These funds will help train operators with the estimated \$5.5 billion necessary for initial PTC system acquisition and implementation, which is required on all lines that jointly operate passenger and freight traffic by December 15, 2015.

Mr. Chair, this bill includes crucial support for our transportation, housing and infrastructure that will create jobs for Americans all across this country. It also includes vital support for veterans and vulnerable populations such as the elderly, low-income, and homeless who need a lifeline in the midst of this economic storm. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

### *PERSONAL EXPLANATION*

#### *HON. W. TODD AKIN*

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, on July 29, 2010, I was absent from the House and missed rollcall votes 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, and 499.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 491, "yes" on rollcall No. 492, "yes" on rollcall No. 493, "yes" on rollcall No. 494, "yes" on rollcall No. 495, "yes" on rollcall No. 496, "yes" on rollcall No. 497, "yes" on rollcall No. 498, and "no" on rollcall No. 499.

### *RECOGNIZING THE SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST*

#### *HON. JOHN SHIMKUS*

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Salem United Church of Christ in Alhambra, Illinois for their 150th Anniversary of ministry.

The origins of the church date back to 1860 when German immigrants settled in and around Alhambra and formed a congregation with a small church that was without a tower or steeple. In 1877, the congregation decided to build a new Gothic style church. The congregation has since added a parish hall for a gathering place for young and old alike for many activities. Since they built their first church with timbers cut in a steam-powered mill, the members of the Salem United Church